

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 25 May 2021 10:00 GMT +03:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Accountability for the right to adequate food in Kenya: Pathways to sustainable, inclusive, resilient, and equitable food systems
CONVENED BY	Welthungerhilfe, Rural Outreach Africa, Route to Food Initiative, The African Population and Health Research Center
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/14709/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	No borders

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

90

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

19-30

31-50

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

Male

Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

88 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

6 Environment and ecology

2 Trade and commerce

13 Education

13 Communication

3 Food processing

Food retail, markets

3 Food industry

2 Financial Services

5 Health care

4 Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

29 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

10 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

18 Small-scale farmer

7 Medium-scale farmer

1 Large-scale farmer

29 Local Non-Governmental Organization

26 International Non-Governmental Organization

3 Indigenous People

22 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

15 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

6 Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

8 Consumer group

29 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

The UNFSS Dialogue's principles and guidelines were adhered to in planning and organizing the Independent Dialogue. The Dialogue was convened by Rural Outreach Africa, Welthungerhilfe, Route to Food Initiative, and the African Population and Health Research Center. A working group was formed with representatives from various organizations with rich expertise in various topics related to food systems. Each participating organization played an active role in designing, decision-making, planning, engagement, implementation, and executing the Dialogue. The participants were also selected carefully to represent all the stakeholders involved in the food system, especially smallholder producers.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The dialogue embraced multi-stakeholder inclusivity by holding two sub-national dialogues to get the perspectives of the rural and urban poor, who were not in a position to participate in the national online dialogue. The results of these sub-national dialogues were presented at the national dialogue and are included in this report. In facilitated discussion groups, respect was observed as each person got the chance to give their views without interruption.

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

All the principles recommended by Food System Summit 2021 are very essential for a human rights-based approach. All the conveners should follow this to get various perspectives from different sections of society. The Conveners should particularly focus on the representation of the rural community, and other vulnerable groups who are rarely included in discussions that affect their right to food.

3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?

Yes

No

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Rural Outreach Africa (ROA), African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), and Route to Food Initiative (RTFI) are organizations working towards realizing the human right to food in Kenya. WHH is working in Kenya with programs to support smallholder farmers drive the food and nutrition security agenda within their communities. APHRC, as a think tank, specializes in the generation of policy evidence for improving people's health and well-being. ROA serves rural communities in Kenya and intervenes in addressing aspects of food security, nutrition, and socio-economic development. Finally, RTFI works towards realizing the right to food in Kenya and supports public discourse on practical solutions to food systems bottlenecks.

The Independent dialogue focused on securing accountability for the right to adequate food in Kenya and exploring pathways to sustainable, inclusive, resilient, and equitable food systems. The topic focused on Action Track 1 and Action Track 3. The dialogue provided an opportunity to reflect on how the Constitutional right to adequate food can be put into practice. It also evaluated whether our current approach to food and farming systems, policies, legal frameworks, and investments, both from public and private sectors, promote the right to adequate food.

In the subsequent remarks made at the dialogue, speakers reiterated key issues and statistics on food systems, security, nutrition, and possible opportunities. In addition, this report presents thematic highlights as referenced by group discussions. Participants in this dialogue were drawn from smallscale producers, civil society, CBO, national and local government, research, academia, media, local and international NGOs, consumer groups, private companies, and human rights advocates. The plenary and group discussions were informative and lively. In this report, the discussion outcomes are based on five key discussion themes: 1) We need a way that ensures accountability for the Right to Adequate Food in Kenya. This is a role for multiple actors but are there existing policies addressing issues in food systems? Are they inclusive in their representation? 2) Smallholder and urban farmers are critical stakeholders in addressing food and nutrition security but their role might be overlooked. 3) There is a lot of power-play in food and farming systems - can these be identified and managed to drive more inclusivity? 4) We desire to have sustainable, inclusive, resilient, and equitable food systems; and 5) Food safety and adequacy are increasingly becoming important.

ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

- Finance
- Innovation
- Human rights
- Women & Youth Empowerment
- Policy
- Data & Evidence
- Governance
- Trade-offs
- Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

The role of different stakeholders in food and nutrition security should be complementary. Currently we have more consumers than producers of food. This situation increases pressure on the few producers to meet food needs. We need to build the food systems thinking that is holistic and grounded on science and practical experience. What has been done before and worked? Can farmers identify their roles in food systems and not entirely rely on the Government? The evidence of large commercial agriculture establishments narrowing the dietary diversity, access to agricultural inputs, technologies and services, and priority for markets need to be keenly looked at as they pressure humanity to move towards industrial farms. Farmers can produce using ecologically sound principles to mitigate against climate variability, but can they get support from all quarters? These farmers need to access relevant training on the realities of farming and embrace strategies with corrective potential.

It is critical to know and understand who feeds us. A monitoring and accountability system that measures the uptake and impact of support by smallholder farmers needs to be established. The presence of collective action in food systems cannot be overemphasized. The training and bargaining which groups can leverage for community resilience is phenomenal and can be encouraged at the policy level, especially at formulation. Smallholders need a consistent update on new scientific and ecologically sound approaches to farming, into which they integrate indigenous knowledge.

As a way of addressing the concerns of sustainability, equity, resilience, and inclusivity in food systems, several actions can be taken up;

1. Civil society organizations, Government, consumers, and farmers can resolve.
2. The farmer can receive moderated funding which allows them to grow and encourage equity. The farmers will have to push for policies through active and strategic advocacy that ensure their agenda reaches the highest office of the land. Food policies should be farmer-friendly to ensure the farmers are protected and empowered.
3. There is a need to build knowledge systems that teach sustainable farming approaches like agroecology for healthy food systems enhancing livelihoods of smallholders, food and nutrition security for all, and the health of the planet.
4. There is a need for strong producer movements, by farmers, for farmers! The need to hold open multi-stakeholder dialogues will be increasingly helpful.
5. Hold the Government accountable and make sure that they are accountable for the promises made to farmers.

On the right to adequate food, participants agreed to continue in civic education on rights, collect evidence of violations, make them more visible to the public, bring these to court, and get orders that hold duty bearers responsible. Food should be universally accessible because it is a human right. Universal food access must be recognized as a policy like universal health coverage, universal access to education.

The role and power of consumers to create change was also emphasized as consumers can practically vote with their forks, buying from, and supporting food and farming systems they want to see. Their resolve is also to continue engagement in ongoing civic education on food rights. Finally, they will generate and utilize gender-disaggregated data to promote a complete shift away from gender-neutral approaches. A couple of indicators will define the success of these actions. Four key ones are when we see:

- Improvement in health and well-being status of citizens, including reduced child malnutrition, improved food, and nutrition security statistics.
- Increased budget allocations to agriculture, with a focus on smallholder farming and projects that support food sovereignty and food access (not cash crops for export)
- A fiscal policy in Kenya that does not punish the poor (through taxation on essential foods); and that will incentivize agroecological transition in agriculture
- Food system policies and implementation frameworks that are responsive to the needs of farmers, and marginalized groups

The success of the above actions will be visible in several ways. First, we will be able to see more affordable, safe, and adequate food for everyone. The production of safe, diverse foods will significantly rely on farmers embracing agroecology principles, taking up more bio instead of synthetic pest and disease management approaches, and improved food safety standards for Kenyans. With proper implementation of the policies related to agriculture, food, and nutrition security, there will be a positive shift in the country's food and nutrition security situation. County governments will also be taking up policies that ensure food is produced safely, diversified, and redistributed where practical. As a result, improved citizens' health and well-being, including reduced child malnutrition and improved food and nutrition security levels, and reduced food-borne illnesses will be seen. In summary, areas where participants will need to undertake these actions: a) Create consumer awareness on the impacts of excessive use and growing misuse of chemical inputs in production and work closely with regulators, alternatives and sustainable practices, the value of having a food rescue system to ensure that food does not go to waste when it can be redistributed or stored safely b) Pilot interventions promoting urban farming in informal settlements in Nairobi c) Promote a culture of small-scale urban farming across socio-economic divides.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

Discussion topic 1/5: Stakeholder roles in ensuring food, and nutrition security

The dialogue discussed and highlighted the roles of different stakeholders (Government, private sector, civil society organizations (CSOs), and communities), in ensuring food and nutrition security and ensuring the right to adequate food for all. It observed that current policies will become increasingly important in addressing food systems issues if adequately implemented. This change will require smooth coordination of food systems issues at and across the county and national levels. Another key outcome of the discussion was funding levels and the engagement of smallholders in policy formulation. Several speakers noted that the context in which discussions on policy occur has been changing, albeit slowly. The involvement of the smallholder in policy formulation seems to be very lean and not allowing a robust engagement. However, the Constitution of Kenya remains very decisive on the need to have stakeholder engagements at the heart of any policy formulation at national and county levels.

Discussants agreed that producers must be at the center of policymaking, sustainable environmental management, and the whole food chain, i.e., farm-to-fork. The participants did note that while in the community, there could be farmers that are less informed on good agronomic practices, the lack of knowledge amongst producers comes at a high cost not only to their livelihoods and success in their craft but also to consumers and the environment due to exposure to unsafe, unsustainable practices. As a regulator and enabler, the Government needs to take up its role more decisively and discharge its mandate. Some of the contextual aspects that came up include the need for farmer linkages in counties to reap the benefits of training and cross-learning. Farmer-to-farmer extension, including the regular extension from Government, CSOs, and NGOs, can help address knowledge gaps. Stakeholders need to go on the ground and facilitate shifts in behavior and thinking. Cooperatives will allow a unity of purpose in farming communities, leveraging on their multi-skill base and delivering benefits of group training. The farmers need to know how critical their role is in the food system.

In seeking sustainable food systems, we need to change the current narrative. A bottom-up implementation is an excellent possibility if a blueprint in agriculture is co-developed and a holistic food systems approach is applied. Focusing on youth exposure to agriculture from the onset to school will fortify their interest in food systems. The process of ensuring accountability for the Right to Adequate Food in Kenya should be centered and driven by rights holders, including smallholder farmers who are increasingly becoming more susceptible to food insecurity.

Some of the main action points from the discussion include:

- All stakeholders need to incorporate the welfare of producers in food systems activities and interventions.
- Work with farmers to establish the best evidence-based farming methods.
- Support group collective action for strengthening farmer knowledge, and practices through farmer-farmer sharing on practical concepts such as growing organic food, crop rotation, and composting.
- Support knowledge access for smallholders as the ultimate equaliser -- it increases equity, fairness, and transparency in the food production system.

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KEYWORDS

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	Innovation		Data & Evidence
✓	Human rights	✓	Governance
✓	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

Discussion topic 2/5: Who feeds us? The role of smallholders and urban farmers in food and nutrition security

It was noted that there was still an ongoing need to support smallholder farmers. This support is not because they do not have the potential in production but rather because they hold significantly higher potential. Now, they produce to feed up to 70% of the population, with only 25% of resources. However, these farmers still face several challenges, including:

- Lack of extension and education services
- Limited access to markets and marketing information (value chains)
- Too many intermediaries involved in brokerage
- Land sub-division, leaving too few pieces for farming
- Variable weather patterns
- The influx of imported goods
- An aging population of farmers
- A culture that negatively impacts women from producing food.

What we need to see is:

- Have more people able to meaningfully participate in public dialogue, especially women and persons living with disabilities.
- A reduced influence of agrochemical companies on government policymaking.
- A strengthened extension service that educates farmers on safe food production will be imperative.
- The sub-national dialogues brought to bear the vulnerable state smallholders are in.

In their assessment, discussants do agree that there's a need for a paradigm shift. The thinking that food insecurity is a net result of climate change is a "tired assertion." The systemic issues impeding progress towards inclusive food and nutrition security require scrutiny. A couple of suggestions were made about how individuals, corporates, and government entities can apply supportive actions:

- Individuals can (need to) buy from small-scale farmers and can demand provision for retailers to stock from these farmers.
- Corporates need to source from the local and small-scale farmers. They can also provide the needed resources in supporting the scaling of farmer activities.
- The Government is a significant player in food systems and thus needed to promote the local level procurements. They can also avail the much-needed subsidies and incentives to farmers using sustainable and ethical production methods. If they consider creating spaces where farmers can learn about these practices, a significant shift in behavior will start developing.
- The youth need an enabling environment for working in the entire value chain – the Government can prioritize this.

Agriculture has to maintain a capacity to conserve, regenerate and reward. Improved market surveillance to reduce food waste will be needed. This process should be embedded in enhanced value addition and support to farmers through market cooperatives that increase access to global markets. We see large-scale farmers embracing organic farming and organic ways of producing large-scale agricultural products for human consumption. Finally, a short and localized food value chain is needed - from production to processing/value addition and marketing. Smallholders need to access information on market dynamics, pricing of products, and general empowerment by value-chain. These will help guide a consistent transformation that seeks household food and nutrition security, imparts farmer decision-making abilities, and leads them to food sovereignty. Urban farming continues to inspire hope. It is key to the production of and access to safe, nutritious, and healthy food. It has been on the increase in cities through the pot, backyard, and multi-story gardens. It also offers additional income to the smallholders who sell their surplus production.

In the closing of this discussion, proposed action points included:

- There is a need for all interventions to embrace shorter, localized food value chains - from production to processing/value addition and marketing.
- Access to information on market dynamics, pricing of products, and the general empowerment of smallholders to effectively engage at the market level should be prioritised.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

Discussion topic 3/5: Power dynamics in food and farming systems

This session highlights the perceived and actual roles of different aspects, i.e., gender, politics, finance, and multinational corporations in food and farming systems. The participation of women and youth in food systems following (dis)empowerment is queried. This participation is also examined based on "how we can incentivize women, youth, people differently-abled, and other vulnerable groups to aid their participation in food systems more meaningfully." Finally, it explores what the power dynamics are and paints a picture of what the status is.

Several actions will influence power dynamics in food systems in the next three years:

1. We will see increased democratic space in the food system. This shift will create equal freedom for all people to participate. As it is, citizens have been reduced to listeners, without space and/or adequate attention given to the people's views. If the farmers are consistently positioned at the center, we will witness changes in these power dynamics. Strategies and interventions need to be grown from and informed by a ground-up approach, where farmers are the first point of information and guidance on what change is necessary and what is required to support them.

2. With a strengthened regulatory framework, much traction will be gained. Laws, policies, and regulations need to be genuinely farmer-centered and pro-poor. The regulatory framework in place needs to exhibit an expanded understanding of the food system – it is not just about production, productivity, and export. In parallel, there is a need for awareness among farmers on existing laws that support them and available redress channels. Fundamental changes in how we view social capital strategies will define the next three years. The social capital available at the local level, such as farmers' cooperatives, can serve as avenues for educating smallholder farmers on best practices for safe and sustainable food production. This voice and communication will rely on social capital, unified voices, and increased communication in society. We need to express what we want and need for a food systems change!

3. Embracing human-centered approaches will always be critical to determining power dynamics in food and farming systems. The food system and processes in food production should prioritize people's health, welfare, and well-being instead of merely focusing on profit-making. We will need a sustained civic education drive. This result will be achieved by ensuring continuity of civic education on the food system that targets people at the grassroots and leverages the devolved governance structure in Kenya. Participants did agree that people empowerment and effective communication should be at the center of civic education efforts. Community organizations and initiatives could be used to do this. Local farmers and consumers can also be urged to join these initiatives and learn

4. The need to have enhanced public participation in all sub-sectors of food systems will be inalienable. Therefore, we will have to derive common understandings on the definition of public participation, alongside formulation of verifiable criteria for public participation that ensures inclusion of people at the grass-root level (small scale farmers and consumers) and accountability.

For successful engagement and favourable political economy framework, we need:

- A change from the current top-down approach to a bottom-up approach is needed.
- Sustained civic education on food policies, regulatory framework, and food systems interventions in general for more meaningful participation and involvement of everyone
- Strengthening of the regulatory framework guiding various aspects of food systems

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

Discussion topic 4/5: Sustainable, resilient, inclusive, and equitable food systems

Agroecology as a principle means working with nature to farm effectively. It allows the food system to achieve these four indicators.

Education and awareness are needed on the components that drive resilience in farming systems. Household food consumption patterns have been changing, and so have been food markets. Embracing kitchen gardens to add to the household's daily food basket is a great strategy to improve food and nutrition security. The power of these gardens lies in undertaking them in minimal spaces, water needs, and attention. Thus, smallholder farmers can be taught that even if marginalized, they still contribute a considerable proportion of the food needs. This appreciation will help encourage both production and consumption of home-grown food.

The participants noted that the danger of food commodification still lurks. This situation will continue to become more pressing, especially as discussions on food systems remain "much talk and little action." Better information flows will reinforce the momentum for better monitoring and evaluating these efforts at developing ideal food systems. There was agreement that when food becomes a market commodity, it is not produced in dignity and we think about the money aspect only. There is often the tendency to forget that we will also buy food grown that same way. The consequences of producing for money take away inclusivity and thinking about others and the environment. On sustainability, the focus is three-fold, i.e., environmental, economic, and social. For environmental causes, land, water and seed will need to be protected and conserved. Where farmers can depend on farming for their lives, economic questions will arise. They are spending much money and get close to zero harvests. Social sustainability will raise additional questions in food systems. These include whether farmers are getting new and up-to-date knowledge on appropriate farming practices and extension that empowers them. Finally, culture also has a place in the food systems. The improved breeds and varieties have sometimes gone against cultural norms, e.g., broiler or intensively farmed chicken has not been well received in farming and increasingly urban communities.

It was noted that there remains no justice in the food system if chemicals and additives in farming are making the wrong people richer while disenfranchising the smallholder farmer. Consequently, there is hope in making our food systems equitable. We do not have to harm other organisms to feed consumers, to make money out of farming. Prudent management of natural resources provided to us by mother nature will benefit every player in the food system ensuring equity - if normalize safe food!

Now, more than ever, the smallholder farmer needs to embrace value addition, access their pool of seed adapted to their agroecology, and be in cooperatives or associations that advocate for their needs. A great deterrent to equity in farming systems is capitalism. The subsidy regime fronted by the Government and other stakeholders are heavily inclined toward commercial farmers. Middlemen and other players like chemical sellers are the ones who benefit from the farming system. There need to be policies that ensure the farmers are protected and empowered. The farmer groups have been deliberately disenfranchised to take advantage of them. This observation is around the world. Consumers are very important stakeholders in the food system, and there is a need to empower them. They need to know their rights and how food produced conventionally impacts their health to demand better food production and policies that protect their health and their children's future.

The main action points derived from this session include the need to:

- Empower consumers to take up their role in determining the way local food systems are structured and managed
- Onboard environmental conservation thinking in the design and management of our food systems

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

Discussion topic 5/5: Food safety and adequacy

Participants expressed their views on what food is all about. i) food is self-care, ii) food is dignity, iii) food is about choice and having an excellent variety to choose from, iv) food should be safe, v) food is political, and vi) food is community.

Participants also did define a set of actions they felt would have the most significant impact on food adequacy and safety in the next three years. There will be an increase in the uptake of biopesticides to grow food. This uptake will offer farmers an alternative to synthetic pesticides harmful to the environment and human health.

Providing farmers with the correct information will be crucial in the next couple of years. Currently, the Government is seen pushing smallholder farmers to embrace inorganic fertilizers and other farm inputs. These have been shown to have direct impacts on their farms through degrading effects on their soils and yield declines. There will be a drive to have more shifts to work with nature in regenerating the soil, increasing food and nutrition security, and improving biodiversity and ecosystem services. The withdrawal of toxic pesticides will be a significant issue. At least 33% of active pesticide ingredients currently registered and sold as products in Kenya have been withdrawn from the European market. This withdrawal is due to its potentially severe impact on human and environmental health.

Consumers continue to demand safe food. This act will be increasing as more information and awareness becomes available to the masses. Kenya exports organic food to markets in Europe. While this is viewed as a good income stream for both specialized and selected producers, it is time that consumers demanded the same quality of food that is exported. Consumers can also contribute to producing some of the food they consume at home through embracing urban farming/kitchen gardening. We will see a heightened series of efforts that push on the Government to act. More accountability will be demanded from the Government by the people. Several practitioners will push the Government to ensure that there is enforcement for all the guidelines. These guidelines will directly influence access to production inputs, actual production activity, sales and marketing, and certification. For example, before the food gets to the supermarket shelves, it will need to be certified as safe. This certification will rely on systems in place to guarantee the application of safety principles. If we have Kenyan food policies that can guarantee food safety, many gains will be realized.

Presently, there is little political goodwill when it comes to food safety; most policies and laws end up supporting multinational corporations. There was thus a call to observe that "security starts with us, and we need to know how food is grown. If we demand safe food, farmers will work towards that as they will respond to the needs/demands of the market". With proper distribution and storage of food, we will see more food availability. There are seasons when food surpluses are recorded in the country for some regions, as others record dry spells and failed harvests. What if the Government ensures that during this high production season, storage is appropriately stored? What if the food can be (equally) redistributed through a food rescue system? We need to support local food systems. Let us have the media highlighting the fundamental issues related to the Right to Adequate food for all. They need to do more feature stories related to food safety to create awareness. Finally, it was agreed that with increased budget allocations to agriculture, and with a focus on smallholder farming, projects should support food sovereignty and food sustenance (not cash crops for export).

The discussion agrees on a set of crucial and pivotal actions to be undertaken:

- Deliberately work on better food storage and distribution systems at all levels
- Shift towards more environmentally sound methods of farming that protect the soil and biodiversity
- Consumers have to demand better food and be actively involved in championing good practices and sustainable food systems.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Overall, the participants share a view on need for adequate food for all. However, the areas of divergence in food safety and adequacy were given to express two themes. First, the pesticides industry is a multi-billion sector and will not sit back and watch as they lose market and business for their products. Therefore, we might need to look for ways of incorporating them to see if they can produce safe alternatives (biopesticides) to the harmful chemicals. Second, double standards where the Government sets higher standards on food safety for the export market than they do for local markets. There is a need to push consumers to demand the same measures.

In power dynamics in the food system, some divergence was also noted. The "Business as usual" situation will continue to threaten sovereign food systems in Kenya and the country's industrial agriculture agenda. For example, national budget allocations for the past five years remain at less than 4% of the national budget. In addition, Africa is an untapped export market for pesticides, so there is an increase in pesticide exports to the continent. Then, Nation-wide public opinion on politically sensitive issues such as Genetically Modified Organisms and chemical pesticides and fertilizers to inform government budget allocations and political priorities (not the other way around). Some participants have heard of their friends or relatives who do not quite mind having food whether GMO or not as long as they can get to sell, and eat. These sessions did discuss why civil society actors still need to be part of the food systems dialogues. Issues related to food systems and their discussions are within democratic processes, public participation, and overall inclusivity. The collaborating organizations and dialogue participants hold to a firm belief of an all-encompassing process that brings farmer and consumer interests and perspectives on board -- especially in the wake of concerns on stakeholder values, corporate capture, accountability, and human rights.

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